

# CHRIST CHURCH HIGHER BEBINGTON

## NEWS LINK

October/November 2019



### Church Services

#### Sunday:

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:00 am	Parish Communion
10:00 am	Sunday Club
4:00 pm	Noisy Church (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)
6:30 pm	Sung Evensong (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
6:30 pm	Alternative Service (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)

#### Monday:

9:00am Start the Week with Morning Prayer

#### Tuesday:

6:30pm Pause & Pray

#### Wednesday:

9:0 am	Morning Prayer
10:30 am	Holy Communion

#### Thursday:

9:00 am Morning Prayer



<http://www.christchurchbeb.org.uk>

# WHO'S WHO

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Michael Loach</b> Email: mgloach@gmail.com	0151 609 0943
<b>Associate Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Eunice Blackmore</b> Email: euniceblackmore@talktalk.net	0151 648 5343
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Ted Jones</b> <b>Pam Hollinshead</b>	0151 645 0617 07957 880 687
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	<b>Jill Wright</b>	0151 792 3668
<b>Pastoral Worker</b>	<b>June Fogg</b>	0151 608 5693
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Gary Shaw</b> <b>Ian Murray</b>	0151 608 4927 0151 608 5998
<b>Hon. Secretary to Church Council</b>	<b>Jane Dalziel</b>	0151 608 4429
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	<b>Charles Van Ingen</b> Email: c.vaningen@ntlworld.com	0151 334 1956
<b>Community Centre Administrator</b>	<b>Julie Scarsbrook</b> Email: centremanager@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk	07473 028 991
<b>Community Centre Supervisor</b>	<b>Sarah Loach</b>	
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## December 2019/January 2020 Magazine

Items for inclusion in the December 2019/January 2020 Magazine should reach the Parish Secretary

(email: parishoffice@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk) by  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019** who can also be contacted with any queries.

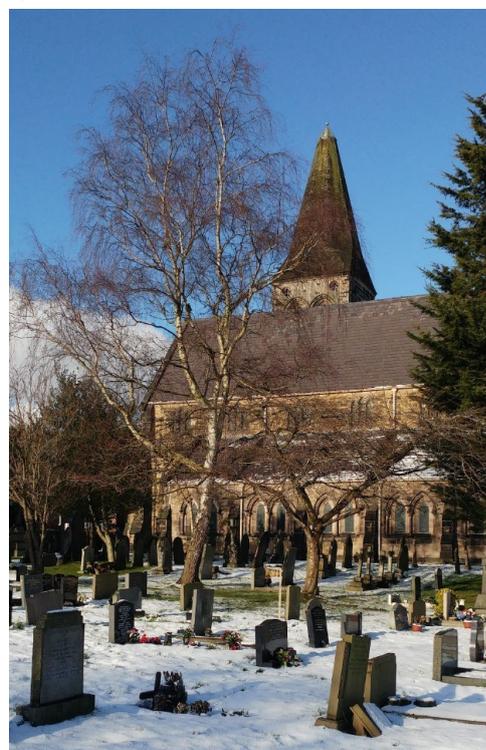
# VICAR'S LETTER

For us, living in the UK, understanding the purpose and significance of the word "church" can be a contentious undertaking. For many, "The Church" is a place where people gather (or used to gather!) on Sundays or for funerals, weddings or baptisms; for others, it is a name given to the people who gather – "the body of Christ" committed to following in His ways; for some it is an institution – a part of the establishment and tied to the State; and, sadly, in the eyes of a growing number, it is an anachronism – something outdated, that was relevant in the past, but is no longer applicable to modern life.

How we personally understand the purpose and significance of "The Church" will obviously impact on our attitude to the sandstone building that we call "Christ Church, Higher Bebington". Yet, even among the broad spread of ecclesiological positions we will inevitably find within the congregation and around our parish, I'm convinced that there are very few people who would not seek to protect the building and its place in our community. As a place of gathering, a worship space, as a place of prayer and quiet reflection or simply as an attractive historical landmark, I have no doubt that it is valued by many.

It is perhaps in recognising such value, that I am able to be at peace with the considerable expenditure that Christ Church PCC has, this year, committed to the church organ, the sound system, lighting system and the various ongoing repairs that come with the responsibility of managing a large, listed building. Almost all the income the church receives comes from the generous donations of its members and it is important that it is invested both thoughtfully and prayerfully. I am very excited that the organ restoration is now complete and that work on the sound and lighting will commence sometime in October. These investments will enable greater opportunity for people to engage with our services and events, as well as ensuring that our building is fit for purpose for many years to come.

At Christ Church, we do recognise that the people of this parish are our main concern and asset. We are committed to being out in the community and try



## VICAR'S LETTER (CONTD.)

to resist any models of church that would have us retreat behind our doors as some sort of "holy huddle"! And yet, we also recognise that the church building connects with people in a very special way. It is a place that links families back through many generations of membership, as well as through baptisms, marriages and funerals. It is a place where people can find a quiet space and seek out pastoral support when in need. It is a place of music, song, laughter and friendship and one that genuinely places no boundaries on the people it welcomes. And it is hopefully a place where something of God's presence can be felt, not because God is limited to such spaces, but because of the devotion, care and prayerfulness that have been poured into the space over many years.

We want the building to be as accessible as possible and try to ensure that it is open every morning from 9am. We also want people to know that there will be someone available to pray alongside them every day, throughout the year and, to that end, we will now be offering the following weekly prayer/worship times:

Monday: 9.00 - 9.30am (Start the Week)

Tuesday: 6.30 - 7.00pm (Pause & Pray)

Wednesday: 10.30 - 11.30am (Holy Communion)

Thursday: 9.00 - 9.30am (Morning Prayer)

Friday: 12.00 - 12.30pm (Prayers for the Parish)

Saturday: 7.30 - 8pm (Compline – night prayer)

Sunday: 8.30 - 9.15pm (Holy Communion), 10.00 - 11.15am (Main Service) & Evening Service (times vary)

Please feel most welcome to drop in to any of the above services and/or prayer times whenever suits.

On **Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>**, we will be holding a special service to mark the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ Church,

Higher Bebington and would like to encourage everyone to ask their friends and neighbours to come along with them and join in a celebration of this beautiful building as a centre for worship and community. I hope to see you there!

With love and every blessing,

*Mike*



# AN ASSOCIATE'S MUSINGS

## Choosing our focus

I recently decided I needed a day off doing something totally different. One of my friends who I was ordained with had taken up photography as a means of stopping and appreciating more of the natural world. It also enabled him to see things from a different or closer perspective. Having purchased a new camera for the China trip and foolishly not taken any time to learn how to use it before I went, I decided a day's photography course would be ideal.

I wasn't disappointed! The course took place at the beautiful setting of Shore Cottage Studio on the edge of Thurstaston shore. The theory and practice were all about selecting what you were going to focus on and then choosing the correct manual settings to ensure that it really was the focus. As the tide was in during the morning we were able to experiment, kneeling on the beach, with taking pictures of the waves. The idea was to freeze the water droplets and just let time stand still for a split second. I was pleased with the above attempt but even more delighted when I studied it later to find that I had inadvertently captured a heart shape rock in the centre!



In the afternoon we selected various objects to focus on. That was relatively easy when we were indoors – but attempting the flowers in the garden was definitely a challenge as the wind was against us. Would we keep our focus or be thrown off course?

I couldn't help but be reminded of the second verse from Hebrews 12 - Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end (verse 2, Good News Bible). It's so easy to be thrown off course and let the troubles and worries of each day take over but when we focus on Jesus we really do see things in a new perspective and are aware of his presence. I loved a phrase from our first Alpha DVD - "Jesus is the lens through which we see God, and he's the lens which enables us to see the world in a completely different way". We can't do better than focussing on Jesus particularly when the wind is challenging us!

Every blessing, *Eunice*

# THE ORDINAND-ARY LIFE!

## **What exactly do you do George?**

This is a question I was asked not long ago which gave me the idea to form this month's article around what it is I do here at CCHB and how I am being trained for full time ministry. So, here is a quick breakdown of the role and life of a full time Ordinand.

## **What am I?**

I am an ORDINAND, or a person being formed for possible ordination in the Church of England, some call this a trainee priest, some an understudy. One thing I am not (yet) is an ordained clergy person and therefore can not perform certain tasks or ministries, though I am authorized by the Bishop of Chester to work under Fr Mike in many areas in order to gain ministry experience. Once ordained, I will become a Deacon, then a Priest, both of which will fall under the title of CURATE which, loosely, is someone who assists the other clergy and the parish whilst gaining further experience.

## **What does my Working Week look like?**

Sunday- This is the start of my week where I attend the morning services and gain further experience of preaching, leading worship, pastoral care and leading intercessions. This I view as my main working day and after assisting with baptisms, or helping set up or clear, I then go home to complete little administration tasks as well as having family time (or a nap if needed) and return for evening services as and when.

Monday - I am fully dedicated to college at Liverpool Cathedral. This is a valuable time of learning and fellowship with other students as well as having plenty of prayer and worship. I then stay behind for evensong in the main cathedral.

Tuesday & Wednesday - I am dedicated mostly to Christ Church where I work on my own projects, and shadow Fr Mike and Rev. Eunice whilst attending team meetings, assisting with funerals, visits, and spending time speaking to many lovely people who walk through our doors.

Thursday & Friday - I am either here in Christ Church or working from home, during which I can be out visiting my spiritual director or other people, assisting Mike and Eunice if needed, reading or putting together many essays.

Friday & Saturday - This is a very special time for me as I welcome in the Sabbath. This has in all honestly taken some getting used to but I am now in a pattern where I simply down tools Friday evening until Saturday

# THE ORDINAND-ARY LIFE!

evening, unless I am either away at college residenceals, or am having to meet a deadline (in which case I move the sabbath to another day). If you don't keep to a strict sabbath, I would highly recommend this as it has really refreshed my life (I am happy to speak about this if you feel it may help).

## **Residential Training.**

I must attend six residential weekends away a year along with one residential week. These are always at one of the Christian Conference Centres and I am pleased to say the facilities and comfort is something I have never had to challenge. During these times away we cover many topics of study from theology, history, church politics, structures, canon Law and many others, all rotating around three worship times a day.

## **All the other bits and Bobs.**

Writing sermons, completing essays, meeting up with people, preparing services and worship, exploring things, pastoral care, college and church admin, team meetings, external courses, meeting with spiritual directors, more reading! The list goes on and on!

So if you have ever wondered what exactly I do other than walk around in a black robe all day, you now know! And though I have narrowed my working week down to this small article, I am sure you will appreciate all of the work that goes into the above and that this really is only a snip of what is involved in the training of people for full time ministry in the Church of England.

Please continue to pray for me as I am now in my final year and really do need your prayers!

In peace,

*George*

We are running an Alpha course for all who would like to discover, discuss and debate what the Christian faith is all about on THURSDAY evenings. for 6 more weeks.

Each session includes a meal at 7 pm followed by a video and the opportunity to discuss in small groups, concluding by 9.15 pm. Do join us. Please let Rev Mike or Eunice know if you are interested and/or if you are willing to help with food etc.

**Alpha - Explore More Life. Faith. Meaning**



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## October 2019

**Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30pm	Befriender's Lunch
	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Harvest Supper
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Service for Harvest
	11.45am	Parish Communion
	12.45pm	Baptisms
	4.00pm	Noisy Church
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Ministry Team Meeting
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Vestry Group Meeting
	10.30am	Film Morning
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Ladies in Stitches
	1.30pm	Oasis Mental Health Support Group
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
	7.45pm	Mothers' Union
	9.00pm	Thirsty Thursday
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Indoor Bowls
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Community Litter Pick
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	10.00am	Boulder's 'Talking through Faith' session
	6.30pm	Sung Evensong
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Singing Café
	12.15pm	4C's Carers Lunch
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Boulders Social

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (CONTD).

## October 2019

### Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Communion in church & Baptism Welcome
	4.00pm	Meditation Group
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Boulders Cellar Night
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Service of the Word
	12 noon	Baptism
	6.30pm	Alternative Service
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course

## November 2019

### Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	5.30pm	Trip to "Oliver!" at Theatre Clywd
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5.30pm	Community Bonfire & Fireworks
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	10.00am	Boulder's 'Talking through Faith' session
	12 noon	Baptisms
	3.00pm	Time to Remember
	4.00pm	Noisy Church
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Centre Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Ladies in Stitches
	1.00pm	Eco Group Meeting & 7.30pm
	7.30pm	Men's Group at 25 Regents Way
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Befriender's Lunch
	7.00pm	Alpha Course

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (CONTD).

## **November 2019      Holy Communion every Wednesday 10.30am**

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Remembrance Sunday Parade Service
	11.30am	Act of Remembrance at Royal British Legion
	6.30pm	Sung Evensong
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Film Morning
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Ladies in Stitches
	1.30pm	Oasis Mental Health Support Group
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
	7.45pm	Mothers' Union
	9.00pm	Thirsty Thursday
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Organ Recital with Ian Tracey
	7.30pm	Boulders Social at Flip Out
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Meditation Group
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Singing Café
	12.15pm	4C's Carers Lunch
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Indoor Bowls
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Worship & Baptism Welcome
	6.30pm	Fellowship Service
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Happy Reading Group
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Connect Café
	2.00pm	Tea Dance
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning

# NEWS & EVENTS

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise.... and that surprise was a vicar in a bear costume and a bunch of grown women with teddy bear ears! Our teddy bears' picnic was a huge success, with over twenty children bringing their favourite cuddly toys and their families to join in our bear-themed activities.

While children had fun at our craft and sensory areas, mummies, daddies and grandparents got to talk to each other, join in with their children or just sit down and relax for a few minutes. Children made new friends as well as playing with familiar faces, siblings joined in and pre-walkers had a good roll around on the mats.

After a warm welcome from the Bear-in-Charge, children and their teddies joined in with some singing and heard the Bear Hunt story, which they enthusiastically accompanied with lots of noisy instruments.

Everyone then got to go on a real bear hunt in the church, going through swishy-swashy grass, splashy water, squelchy mud, through a forest and a snowstorm before finding a giant bear in the cave at the end! The children were then treated to a bear-themed picnic on bear plates with matching cups and even napkins.

The teddies and their owners finished the afternoon with a noisy Bear Hokey Cokey.

The team effort that went into the planning, preparation and helping at the event was as always an excellent demonstration of the Christ Church community spirit. From Eunice having the initial idea and inviting people to the wonderful ladies who helped supervise the activities, from Victoria's infinite supply of creative ideas to the beautiful tiny finger sandwiches made for the picnic, the whole event was a roaring success - raaah - and we'll definitely hold one again, even if it's just so Mike can get his money's worth out of the bear costume.



# CHARITY GROUP

The church at Christ Church and the wider community of Higher Bebington have a long history of supporting charitable work both financially and by the giving of their time to support projects and charitable opportunities. Every year the Rose Queen organises events which not only bring the community together but raise funds to support a chosen charity, as well as helping to fund the many outreach activities offered from the Community Centre. In recent years, some of the charities who have benefitted are NW Air Ambulance, Therapy Dogs Nationwide and Clatterbridge Cancer Centre. Several regular fundraising events are held during the year, including the Christian Aid Breakfast in May and the Macmillan Coffee morning in November. A nominated local group receives the Harvest donations whilst collections made during the Christingle service in December are sent to support the work of the Children's Society.

On a weekly basis, we have collection points in our Community Centre foyer for the Wirral Foodbank, Charles Thompson Mission and the Women's Refuge. These are always so well supported by regular users to the centre as well as our own congregation.

The generous response to bucket collections is always heart-warming. These often occur without planning but in direct response to a particular need; most recently in support of the McElroy family.

Collections are also made for the work of a local Christian Charity, The Besom, who offer support through distributing donations of furniture and other household items to those in need. At the moment, donations of bedding are being received.

This perhaps gives a brief insight into some of the local projects and those further afield that are supported by the people of Higher Bebington.

A Charity Group has recently been formed to plan for future charitable projects.

Following the Thanksgiving service, the congregation will have the opportunity to take part in a consultation which will help the group decide the focus of future activities.



# MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event. People all over the UK host their own Coffee Mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan.

To help support this worthy cause on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September I organised a coffee morning at Christ Church Community Centre.

Despite the torrential rain many of you braved the weather and the Centre was packed to capacity, at times it was standing room only. There was a great atmosphere and the morning was a great success. The parish came together to share laughter, good conversation and of course plenty of coffee and cakes whilst supporting this worthy cause.



A big thank you to everyone who helped. Either by baking, faking or just eating and donating! At the time of writing the total raised is over £550.00.

A special thank you to Sarah Loach, Helen Byrne, Beckie Jones, Bev Price and Diane Shaw without whom the morning would not have been possible.

Tracy O'Connell

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Huge thanks to Tracy for organising this wonderfully well supported event.



# PARISH WEEKEND AWAY

'Friendship and Fellowship' was the theme of the 2019 Parish Weekend. With ages ranging from 4 to 84, 65 members of Christ Church Higher Bebington descended upon the quaint city of St Asaph to spend a weekend together at the Oriol Hotel. We were lucky enough to have sole use of the hotel, the staff looked after us perfectly. Nothing was too much trouble, our thanks to all the staff at the hotel who worked tirelessly to ensure our stay with them went very smoothly.



The weekend was not all about "getting away".

Whilst there was of course a good deal of fellowship there was also a range of activities for everyone to experience.

A huge thank you to Ian Millington who was our host for the weekend and once again excelled in putting together a fun packed programme that provided entertainment and spiritual reflection.

The weekend programme kicked off with a Friday night quiz and was concluded with the first of several evening and Morning Prayer gatherings led by Eunice Blackmore.



On Saturday morning we were given the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including, faith based crafts for both young and old, meditation, singing group, Makaton signing led by Libby Potter, Wi-Fi detectives and we also had the use of the hotel swimming pool and gym.

# PARISH WEEKEND AWAY

Whilst the afternoon gave us the opportunity for 'free time'. Alan and Vera Jackson kindly organised a 5k walk for the more energetic members of the group. A walk that they had decided to practise in the morning!!! Their energy and stamina never ceases to amaze me.

Saturday evening began with Karaoke including performances from Christ Church's very own Village People, Martha Wilkinson, Helen and Steve Young, Daniel Millington and Sam Loach to name but a few. The evening ended with a disco which went on into the early hours.



On the Sunday all those attending joined together for a Communion service when the elements from the previous day were brought together to form the backbone of the service – the dramatic retelling of Scripture, the singing of worship songs, and the craft from the younger ones. The attraction of running these activities "away from home" is that people become more involved with the activities, more focussed on the Christian messages being promoted, and benefit from learning from each other's journey of faith. The weekend was a perfect place to get to know each other better, we come to church, smile, say 'hello', sit and have coffee with the same people after the service or just get preoccupied. We very rarely take the time to get to know people we worship with. This weekend gave us all an opportunity to get to know each other and develop new friendships.



# MEN IN SHEDS

Beb Shed has attracted a few more members (there's still room for more!), who have started enjoying the friendly atmosphere whilst painting/ assembling the various products that we make.

In an endeavour to include some of the less able members, we are looking to have them join us by sitting in the Troughton Room, whilst the shed activities are underway. That way they can still chat with us and offer advice and constructive criticism!

We are still working our way through the backlog of orders but are also working on some bespoke items. Depending upon how they turn out, they may form part of our range of items.

A video has been made by the diocese regarding the shed and its activities, in the hope that it will promote other parishes to consider setting one up. We have been very fortunate to have received a donation of timber from the manager of Wickes in Birkenhead (see photo), who also provided two internal doors & fittings for one of our parishioners. We are hopeful that this tie-in with Wickes will be for the long term.



Our role as a collection point for Tools With A Mission (TWAM) is really thriving with several pick-ups already having been made to transfer what we had collected. As with the shed itself, this has proved far more successful than any of us imaged.

# NEWS & EVENTS

## Donations to Mary's Meals

Many thanks to all those who donated spare backpacks to the charity Mary's Meals. They will now be winging their way some 7,000 miles to children living in Malawi! The Backpack Project is ongoing, and involves filling each backpack with the following items for the children:- a pencil case; pens; pencils; rubber; T Shirt; soap; toothpaste; toothbrush; hand towel and a tennis ball !!

If you have any new or used items to donate **Jill Wright** would be very pleased to take them off your hands and pass them on.

## 4Cs

4Cs Carers Group – 'Carers, Coffee, Cake (and sandwiches!) and Chat'

The 4Cs provides opportunities for carers, and those who have previously been carers, to meet and enjoy friendship and fellowship together.

At the September meeting we welcomed Sophia Bennett from Wired Carer Services who described the various activities and opportunities available via her organisation.

It is always good to hear about improved resources and Sophia's presentation went down exceptionally well with our members.

We hope to welcome existing and new members to our meetings in October and November when the speakers will be:-

15 October      Lisa Cummings – Age UK Dementia Support

19 November    Lucy Taylor – Scam Awareness

All are most welcome at our lunchtime meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month apart from August. We meet at 12:15 in the Community Centre.

Graham Loach and Rhona Snelson.

If you would like information or know of someone who might benefit from a break from caring and in need of friendly support please contact:

Graham: [graham.loach@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.loach@btinternet.com) or Rhona: [snelson34@btinternet.com](mailto:snelson34@btinternet.com)



Indoor bowls is now back for the autumn/winter months. Taking place at 10am on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Refreshments provided. Next mat down is 11<sup>th</sup> October.

# NEWS & EVENTS

Our social group meets every **first and third Wednesday of the month** at **1.30 to 3.30pm**. This is a busy time of year as we are busy making goods to sell on our Christmas coffee morning stall as well as twiddle muffs and baby items for local hospitals. November is particularly busy as we make knitted poppies to decorate the church and raise funds for the British Legion.

We are looking forward to having a number of local school children visit us to see first hand the art of knitting and crochet.



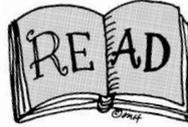
We are very grateful to our Ordinand, George Roach for leading our September Oasis mental health support group. He was able to share his experiences of dealing with mental health issues in his former role as a paramedic. I believe some useful, in depth, discussions ensued. We are also indebted to Steve Flatt, psychotherapist, who attended and joined in the proceedings. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30pm** in the Troughton room of the community centre. Jill Wright will be leading a discussion on the possible problem of addiction to prescription medication and how to deal with it. Please do come along if you feel that the group may be a help to you. We are a small informal group who meet in complete confidentiality. You would be very welcome.

Jill Wright

# NEWS & EVENTS

A warm welcome awaits you at the Happy Reading Group which meets in the Troughton Room at the Church Centre every second and fourth Monday of the month, 2.15pm – 3.45pm, except for Bank Holidays.

The next dates are as follows:-  
14<sup>th</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> October,  
11<sup>th</sup> November & 25<sup>th</sup> November.



Currently we are reading a chapter each time from Jill Wright's book "Sweet Scented Manuscript of Youth" – her childhood memories of Higher Bebington 1945-1957. We are enjoying going down memory lane, exchanging our childhood experiences, over tea, coffee and biscuits! We also read a poem, about which we exchange views. We have some lively discussions.

## Tea Dance

In September we held our Autumn tea dance. It was very popular and there were many new faces. We had a quiz and lots of people took to the floor and learnt a couple of new steps. Our next one will be our Christmas one at 2pm on **Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup>**. All are welcome.

## Ladies in Stitches

Ladies in stitches continued to meet over the summer. One of our members had seen a notice in Abakan on behalf of Arrowe Park hospital requesting homemade A4 size fabric bags. These are to be given out to parents of premature babies containing things they might need during their stay in hospital. We set about making some and are hoping to take a good number in to the hospital over the coming months.



We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am and the second Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Please do join us you'd be most welcome. We will also be doing some hand sewing so sewing machines not essential.

Our befrienders lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month continues to be an important source of support for the bereaved.

We have continued to make this time very informal and open to all.

Our Time to Remember Service is on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 3pm**. This is a very special service where everybody can remember their loved ones, to say a prayer and light a candle.

# NEWS & EVENTS

Mothers' Union Meetings will take place at 7.45pm in the Community Centre on:

**October 10<sup>th</sup>** - Boxes & Banter: a coffee evening and collection for the Shoe Box Appeal.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** - AGM followed by Christmas craft activity.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** - Pause for Thought Christmas Reflection.

All are welcome to join the meetings. Please ask Liz Bird, Margaret Theobald or Heather Ritchie for more information.



## Friends' Weekend Away

In response to popular demand, Jill Wright is arranging another Friends' Weekend at Thornleigh Hotel, Grange over Sands, **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020** (an extra day this time) The cost is £185 per person (this does not include the coach fare and entry to a stately home) There are still places available. Please see Jill Wright for further details – a deposit of £50 per person is required to secure a place.



A recent litter pick in the local community organised by local Councillor, Jerry Williams and supported by members of Christ Church, Higher Bebington.

# ECO CHURCH



An Eco church (CCEC) working party got together recently to clear the weeds from our graveyard. 15 of us, of all ages, set to work and in 2 hours had certainly made a difference.

Encouragement and reward came in the shape of chips eaten from the paper - much enjoyed by all! There is more work

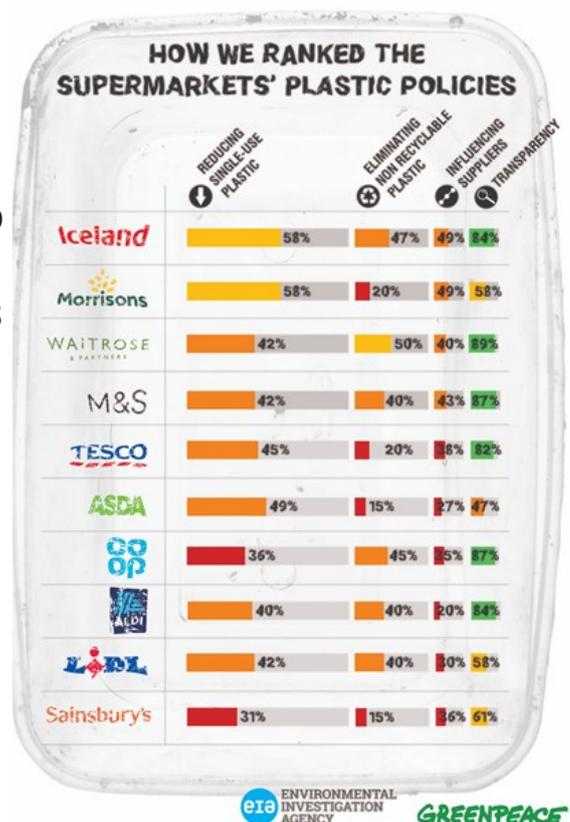
to do in this area, another working party will be organised soon.

We are looking forward to leading our Harvest Festival on 6<sup>th</sup> October when your dry goods and tinned gifts for Charles Thomson mission and Food bank will be gratefully received. We will be launching our market place activity after the service in the Community Centre. Each week we aim to have a different pop up shop of local produce: Viola's pop up bakery, Jean's wonderful pies, fresh vegetables from a local farm to name a few.

In these unsettled political times, it's easy to focus on the negatives and complain about what the government is or isn't doing. This attitude must have been common in Bible times too, because in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul urges and reminds believers to pray for their leaders - The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for

everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Saviour God wants us to live.

Greenpeace UK commissioned a report from the Environmental Investigation Agency back in May to check how supermarkets were responding to the nation's request to reduce plastic bag use. You've followed the Football League Tables now here's the Plastic policies Tables!



# PARISH POET

## Times to remember...

I just wanted to catch something, like that smile of mum's.

It appears in a couple of places on the messy-montage picture wall in my flat,  
that smile.

In one of the pics, she is holding a baby... some newly-arrived cousin or other. But once again, I sense the smile is for me, the one taking the picture...taking the picture because it is a picture of her, smiling with a smile that, at its best, could burn the rain all the way back to the clouds on a chilly night...so that only the most delicate raindrops could weep their way back into her presence.

I just wanted to scribble the promise of something that could smile into your heart like that... lifting you all the way to the stars and back.

Wondering now if I even believed it myself. But after a weekend of letting go, throwing away, tearing up, I find myself still holding the little wooden thing that lives tight and Holy in my clenched fist.

Screamed at it more than a little as the weekend started.  
But I guess those who have got closest to me have always ended up hearing me scream... and maybe the real miracle is how often they have seen the beauty in me when all I could feel was my screaming.

I screamed at it more than a little as the weekend started...  
and now I just don't know.

Everything...everything I held on to for year after year...  
everything that seemed to inspire me...

I figured for a while it all came down to the thing that loves me when it seems  
like nothing else will...

and then shines in me when it seems like nothing else can.  
Leaves me wondering what I'm squeezing here in my scared and angry little hand.

Just a wooden cross. Just splinters now, maybe.

A big part of me is closer than ever to just walking away...  
putting down the cross, the deep red splinter-mark in my palm...  
picking the dark, unlit side of the street and disappearing down it forever.  
Because suddenly everything feels meaningless - a leap not of faith but of nothingness...except for that smile, the one that cracks my heart open.  
Maybe that's the point.

*John Hulme*

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE MAYERS

We started our married life together in 2007, Anne Samuels officiating. We had been friends and colleagues as Local Government Officers for some time dealing with staffing matters including intervention with managers and trade unions (challenging and frustrating) and we supported each other as we dealt with the loss of our respective spouses: Les to complications from leukaemia and Jean from recurring breast cancer. Out of these tragic years has come what we now have; an amazing married life with so many rewarding experiences. So, we both have a separate story to tell before 2007.

### **Barbara**

I was born in December 1952 in Bromborough in the Parish of St Barnabas and have a sister Maureen. Mum did not get around to finishing the Christmas arrangements that year! I developed meningitis at 8 weeks so spent a lot of time in St Catherine's, where I was hurriedly baptized.

When I was a child, I attended Sunday School where Mum was a Sunday School teacher. Then as a teenager I went to church youth club and confirmation classes with the then curate, John Bowers. Secondary school was Wirral Grammar and after A levels I began work for Liverpool City Council in the accounts section of the school meals service (the personnel manager had a sense of humour, as my maiden name was Kitchin!).

I moved into Personnel work as soon as I could and eventually and after gaining my IPM moved to Wirral Social Services in 1980 where I stayed until I took early retirement in 2002. I joined Bebington Soroptimist Club in 1980 at the invitation of Dorothy Cheesley (Pam's Mum) and Winifred Ashton (head of Wirral Grammar) and I have been the club's President several times as Barbara Kitchin, then Griffiths and finally Mayers. Our Club's work is inspiring, working with likeminded women to help women and children at home and abroad. Our projects are varied and over the years we have helped many charities and organisations, currently supporting a school in Sierra Leone.

Activities have included fashion show, concerts, car boot sales, nearly new stalls, tombola's, handmade sanitary towels for Africa, buying pigs for the Philippines, and so much more. It was through Soroptimism that I began volunteering at Wirral Hospice St Johns 15 years ago. I work in the office, but happy to help in any way. Roy and I have for many years organised a fundraising plant sale.

I married Les Griffiths in August 1994 at Christ Church with Roger Faulkner

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE MAYERS

officiating, and moved to what had been the Dairy, Village Road but after major renovation we renamed it Quarry Lodge. Sadly, we had a very short, but happy marriage. Les was diagnosed with Leukaemia July 1999 and after a hard-fought battle, died in January 2001. My parents were still alive but needed more support and so I decided to retire in order to offer them more time. They died in 2007 just months before they could see Roy and I married but they had become very fond of him.

### **Roy**

Born in Knotty Ash in 1946, I really was an afterthought. I was the last of six and was born on my eldest sisters 20<sup>th</sup> birthday! I was born John Roy, but I use my second name as there were 13 Johns in one of my school classes. I am John to my family. My mum died when I was nine and I went to live with one of my elder sisters, Olive, whose husband was named Roy (complicated isn't it?).

The Salvation Army had come to my part of Liverpool in 1938 and my sisters took me to Sunday school at an early age. I was dedicated in the Army and placed on the "cradle roll" and that was the start of my Christian journey in the SA. The Army keeps you busy, I was taught to play a tenor horn and enrolled as a junior soldier at 9 and a senior soldier at 16. By the time I was 18, I was a Sunday School teacher and Band Leader of the Junior Band, teaching youngsters to read music and play brass instruments. Later I was made Band Sergeant (Spiritual Guide) to the senior band and then Band Master. Did I feel up to these tasks? Hardly. But God gives his grace and they were rewarding times. Jean and I shared our 36 years of married life with the Salvation Army very much at the centre (she was of course also a brass player).

During this time, two of my Corps (churches) closed and I finished my time with the Walton Corps where I was Corp Secretary. Latterly the Corps became really engaged with the community and a new community facility was planned and built. I visit them occasionally and I am thrilled to see the work really thriving. The traditional Army is still there but lots of new expressions and new faces are to be seen.

Music was of course a large part of my life. Over the 50 years I played every kind of brass instrument sliding down the band from cornet to tuba! The experiences that God has given me has thrilled and humbled me. Singing in a choir of 200 at the Royal Albert Hall, touring Holland with the songsters at

## MEET THE FAMILY - THE MAYERS

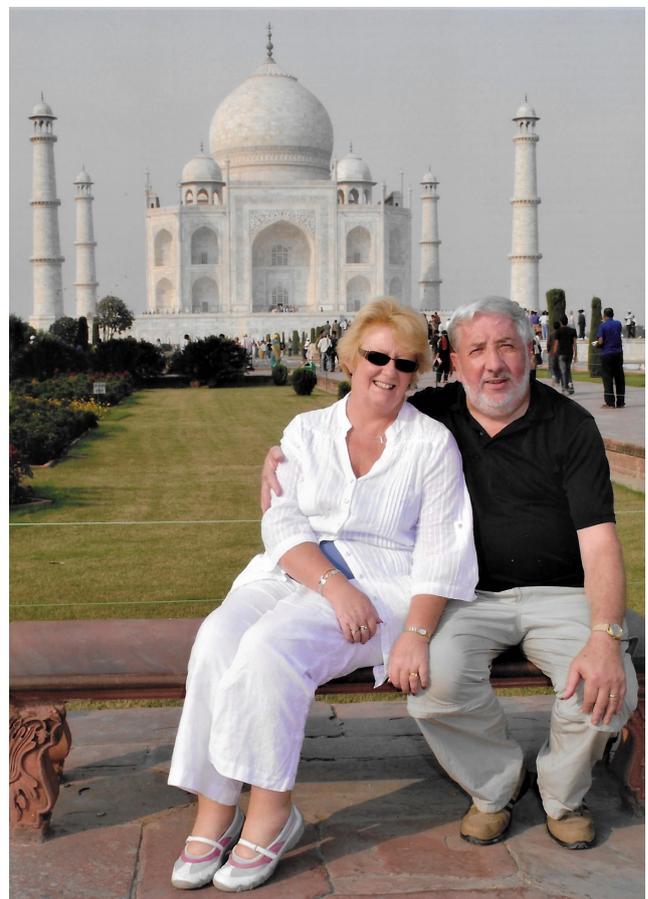
Easter, holding up the traffic on Oxford Street, London as we marched to an open-air meeting and many more God-honouring moments.

I have two children, Elizabeth, an Optician and trombone player married to a farmer and they have two daughters and Graham, a Consultant Anaesthetist, who married a nurse and they have a boy and a girl. Graham is a trumpet player, but he has little time to play these days as he is busy at the hospital in Wrexham and in organising and flying with the North Wales Air Ambulance. Jayne is also busy as school governor, unpaid teaching assistant and chairperson of the local parish council.

When I married Barbara, I felt that it was important to worship together and so I made Christ Church my spiritual home. It was like a spiritual sabbatical. It was only in hindsight that I realised how much I needed such a time to relax and just take in what God has to offer.

And so, our married journey together started. We have been so blessed enjoying walking, birding and our travels together: Egypt, Africa, India, Central America and New Zealand, so far! The wildlife and scenery has been stunning and experiencing other cultures has been challenging. So much poverty, yet so many smiles! Visiting and supporting schools in underdeveloped countries, the children always excited and shy. Many areas still view white people with curiosity especially white blondes! People sideling up 'surreptitiously' alongside Barbara for a sneaky photo. We are amazed at how many gods are worshiped in Indian culture and are a little unsettled to see a local shaman casting his bones about in an allocated corner of a Catholic church in Guatemala.

We learn that Gods' world is so varied and amazing. We are so fortunate and blessed to have been given such opportunities.



# COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

A warm welcome to the Community Centre news page.

You may be aware that the Centre had a 'mini makeover' during the summer holidays. The toilets received a lick of paint. In addition, the noticeboards were painted a darker colour to make the posters and information stand out, and outdated or 'tatty' paperwork was removed. The feedback has been very positive. If you have a local event or organisation you would like to promote, please bring your poster to the Parish office. Many thanks to Barbara and Les Thomas for their hard work.

We have the local Explorers group now meeting at the Centre on a Thursday evening. This is a temporary arrangement whilst their own permanent premises are being refurbished. We are pleased to welcome the additional 3L's class which meets in the morning. So we are now lucky in that the Dodds, who run the class, are with us for most of Fridays and we have the lovely aromas wafting from the kitchen.

The film club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10a.m. A donation of £3.50 is requested which includes refreshments. The last film shown was Fisherman's Friends, where ten fishermen from Cornwall, signed by a cynical record company, achieve a top 10 hit with their songs. This proved very successful at the Centre, with a much larger audience than usual. It is sometimes difficult to get the balance right between showing old classics and modern films. The films must be quite short (an hour and a half) to fit into the time slot with the refreshment break. In addition, we don't want too much 'Anglo Saxon' language! This means they have a 'U', 'PG' or '12a' category. John Potter and Charles Van Ingen do a great job in their choices and running the club. If you have any ideas for film club, please contact the office.

## Bookings

Do you need a venue for your group to meet? Do you have any ideas for a class or would like to run one? Feel free to contact me by telephone (0151 608 4429), email [centremanager@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk), or in person at the Parish Office on Tuesday mornings.

Julie Scarsbrook  
Centre Administrator

# ROSE QUEEN

Hello everybody,

May I say a very big thank you to everyone who attended my first Rose Queen event, a Beetle Drive on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. It was a great evening with lots of fun, laughter and a great sense of community. By the end of the evening some people even understood how the game was played!

Refreshments, cakes and the raffle half way through the game meant that everyone's energy levels were kept high for the second half. The night finished with prizes for the winners and a hearty rendition of Happy Birthday for the Vicar's birthday!



Of course the main purpose of the evening is fundraising and we were lucky to be able to see videos of the wonderful work that Alder Hey undertake – quite an emotional watch but also inspiring.

The total amount raised from the event and donations from cakes the next day was £591.

My next event will be the Christmas Coffee Morning to be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Community Centre from 10am – 12.

There will be a raffle, tombola, crafts for sale, games, refreshments and perhaps an early visit from someone who only usually appears in December.....

All are very welcome and I look forward to seeing you there.... Ho! Ho! Ho

Best wishes

*Charlotte*



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# ORGAN UPDATE

## Organ Recital by Prof Ian Tracey Friday 15 November at 7.30pm

Professor Ian Tracey has kindly agreed to give the Opening Recital on our newly restored three manual Rushworth and Dreaper organ on Friday 15 November at 7.30pm.

Ian Tracey is the current Liverpool City Organist and one of his predecessors in this role was Herbert F Ellingford who gave the original Opening Recital on 17 February 1927.

The last time Ian gave a recital at Christ Church was in November 2007. This was to raise funds for our Community Centre and well over 200 people attended. We are still in fund-raising mode as we need a further £25,000 to finalise the £173,000 organ project.

Ian Tracey is a world-class organist—well known for his long tenure as Liverpool Anglican Cathedral's organist and for his many recitals around the globe; we are grateful for his support and encouragement. Liverpool Cathedral's huge organ is maintained by David Wells Organ Builders Ltd who have so ably restored our instrument.



Tickets are £15 and are available from the Parish Office.

### **Treasurer's Notes**

The collection for Bishop Peter's retirement totalled £130 and this has been sent to the Diocesan Office.

Following Dave Cooke's inspiring talk on Sunday 28 July, we sent a donation of £100 for his Teams4u project.

Canon John Bowers has written to thank us for our cheque for £200 payable to Barnabas Fund (John's favoured charity) in memory of his wife Margaret. John and Margaret were members of CCHB from 1956 to 1963 when John was ordained.

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

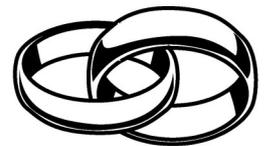
## DEPARTED INTO LIFE

**14<sup>th</sup> August** Karen Ramsden  
**21<sup>st</sup> August** George Robinson  
**17<sup>th</sup> August** Elizabeth (**Liz**) Mary Stewart



## WHOM GOD HAS JOINED

**24<sup>th</sup> August** Elizabeth Margaret Munro (Lizzie) &  
John Robert Thomas Brent (Jack)



## BROUGHT WITHIN THE FAMILY

**4<sup>th</sup> August** Harry David Parks Temple, Sadie Louise Hobbs  
& Charlotte Amelia Jones  
**25<sup>th</sup> August** Noah James Brady,  
Scarlett Dorothy & Bobby Louis Woods  
**1<sup>st</sup> September** Frankie Elizabeth Moore,  
Isaac Stephen & Sophie Laura C'Ailceta  
**8<sup>th</sup> September** Lucia Lamb-Agudelo  
**15<sup>th</sup> September** Nathaniel Arthur Lubbe  
**18<sup>th</sup> September** Daniel Matthew Alexander C'Ailceta  
**29<sup>th</sup> September** Osian Francis & Eira Valentina Johnson-Penny



Grant, O God, that our Church may be as a city set upon a hill,  
a witness to your love, a powerhouse of prayer, and a joy and help to all who  
worship within its walls.

Here may the tempted find strength and the sorrowful comfort.  
Here may both young and old find consolation and inspiration.  
Show your mercy upon us, and grant us your salvation through  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Ian Millington,  
Partner

## *Hello everyone,*

while some of you may recognise me from church you may not know that my day job is to offer legal advice at Hillyer McKeown solicitors.

It strikes me that our population is living longer so it is important to think about our mental and physical health and wellbeing. Below I have put together some practical steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.

### **Wills**

Making a Will can be a difficult thing to think and talk about, but putting in place well thought out plans can offer peace of mind, knowing your wishes will be carried out in the way you want them to be.

My advice is to not wait until things change, but to plan ahead. Welcoming a grandchild, downsizing your home or thinking about care home fees are life events that can typically remind people to update or make a Will. We also help people through difficult moments in their lives, following the death of a loved one.

### **Trust and Estate Planning**

We regularly support people who are

seeking advice about inheritance and succession planning, or who are unsure what to do if a family member has become ill or can no longer make their own decisions. You might also want to consider a Lasting Power of Attorney legal document. An LPA allows you to choose one or more people to make decisions for you, or act on your behalf if you cannot deal with matters yourself.

### **Business Wills**

Does your current Will protect both your personal and business assets? If you (or a family member) own a business our unique Business Will service can set out detailed plans for you and your business. Speak to us about protecting yourself and your loved ones in the future.

## **What to do next?**

For a free, no obligation discussion to arrange a meeting with a member of our Wills and Probate team in Birkenhead (No. 1 Hamilton Square) or if you prefer, in your own home, call 0151 647 600 or email [enquiries@law.uk.com](mailto:enquiries@law.uk.com)

*Thank you, Ian*



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